



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise, Representatives Karin Adams, Scott W. Aument, Sr., Joseph Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Susan Chase-Hildebrand, Michael Collins, Christine Conley, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Nancy Driscoll, Dave Ferreira, Neal Gardner, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Karen Hatcher, Keith L. Hedrick, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Jim Loughlin, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Newsome, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Pam Ryley, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Richard Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Lori A. Watrous, Amanda L. Whewell and Ivy R. Williams

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
24 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

The Moderator reported that Reps. Bauer, Chase-Hildebrand, Dean-Shinbrot, DeMatto, Driscoll, Hatcher, Hedrick, Ryley, Streeter, Svencer, Swindell and Watrous notified the Town Clerk of their absence.

*Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Heede, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. D. Semeraro, Rep. R. Semeraro, Rep. Steinfeld and Rep. Williams
Members Absent: Rep. Bauer, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Ryley, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Whewell*

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Police Chief Michael Crowley, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Economic/Development Specialist Kristin Clarke, Acting School Superintendent Sean McKenna, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Ferreira.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2013

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Baril.

The vote to approve the minutes carried 21 in favor, 3 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Cerf, Harrell and Heede.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Moderator announced the resignation of Rep. Greubel from District 1 effective June 24, 2013 and welcomed Dee Harrell who was elected at a District 1 caucus held prior to this meeting.

He asked members to sign up if they are interested in a behind the scenes tour of the Groton Town

Police Station.

The Moderator reported that he attended the Board of Education Superintendent Search Committee meeting.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2013 is approximately \$9.3 million; the General Contingency balance is \$450,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$1,283,711.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News.

Mr. Oefinger responded to members' questions regarding the draft police study that is currently being reviewed by the Town Council. He explained that the study has discrepancies and is being reviewed and discussed by City, Groton Long Point and Town officials. He stated there is no date set for completion or release to the public and that the outstanding invoice of \$40,000 has not been paid. He clarified that the study was not a report on consolidation and noted that the intent was to identify methods for improving efficiency and cooperation between the three police departments.

The Town Manager reminded members that public hearings are scheduled next week for the proposed ordinances for Police Station Improvements and Flanders Road Utilities Expansion.

3. Presentations on Proposed Ordinances - Police Station Improvements and Flanders Road Utility Expansion

The Moderator introduced Police Chief Michael Crowley, Public Works Director Gary Schneider and Economic/Development Specialist Kristin Clarke who presented information on the proposed ordinances.

Chief Crowley provided an extensive summary of the Police Station Improvement project. He presented details of the expansion and areas to be renovated, as well as replacement of electronic monitoring and gun range equipment. The Town's goal is to meet current State safety recommendations and achieve state accreditation. In response to members' questions, he provided more detailed information.

Chief Crowley announced that "behind the scenes" tours of the Police Station will be held for RTM members.

Members asked numerous questions about the proposed carport; safety improvements; State accreditation; monitoring equipment; the gun range and the increase in the number of lock-up cells.

Chief Crowley replied to each question and provided information about numerous aspects of the project.

Economic/Development Specialist Kristin Clarke summarized the history of the Flanders Road Utilities Expansion, explained the current plan, and presented an overview of the project.

Members discussed the potential rate of return for the investment in expanding utilities along Flanders Road and the potential to increase the grand list. Other items discussed were the impact on residents due to sewer benefit assessments and increases to residential land assessments.

The Town Manager addressed questions regarding the estimated costs of both projects and the expected impact on debt service.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. McKenna reported on the Fitch High graduation and provided information on the graduates who are continuing their pursuit of higher education. He summarized the achievements of the Falcon Marching Band. He clarified the adjustments to the 2013-2014 budget that have been approved by the Board of Education in order to absorb the \$3.4 million reduction in the budget.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

None.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky**

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Ferreira

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Hedrick

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett

It was agreed that due to the lateness of the hour, the report of the Rules & Procedures Committee should be deferred until the next meeting of the RTM.

2013-0174 Review of RTM Rule 8.1 - Personal Interest/Conflict of Interest

REVIEW OF RTM RULE 8.1 - PERSONAL INTEREST/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action taken

2013-0175 Review of RTM Rule 6.2.1 - Appointment of Chairs for Standing Committees

REVIEW OF RTM RULE 6.2.1 - APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

No action taken

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Rep. Granatosky stated that she is upset with the Town Council's discussion at the last Committee of the Whole meeting in regard to possible changes to the RTM budget review process. She feels that the RTM sub-committees will be useless if they are not allowed to review individual accounts and seek staff input at sub-committee meetings. She believes that RTM members will not be able to participate in discussion and question staff at the Council's budget review sessions and that they will be excluded from Town Council caucuses.

Many other members echoed Rep. Granatosky's concern about changing the current process.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

*Rep. Granatosky thanked Rep. Ferreira for his service to the Town of Groton and announced that tonight is his last meeting.
The Moderator noted that Rep. Ferreira's resignation is effective tomorrow and that a new Community Development & Services chairperson will be assigned.*

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 10:23 p.m. was made by Rep.Barnhart, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk